

Message Text

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SUBJECT RELOCATION TO VIENNA

REF: (A) STATE 184162, (B) STATE 187078 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ASYG DAVIDSON SOUNDED OUT CCD REPRESENTATIVES
IN GENEVA ABOUT POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF CCD TO VIENNA
AND SEEMED NOT TO BE DISCOURAGED BY MIXED RESPONSES HE
RECEIVED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UN DISARMAMENT DIVISION
PLANNED TO REMAIN IN NEW YORK IN ANY EVENT, BUT TOOK NOTE
OF OUR AVERSION TO COSMETICS. HE IS STILL UNDECIDED
ABOUT HOW QUESTION SHOULD BE PUT TO NEXT GA, BUT ON
THIS EMPHASIZED HE HAS REPEATEDLY URGED AUSTRIANS AGAINST
POSING QUESTION AS ONE OF ESTABLISHING "THIRD UN CITY."

END SUMMARY

1. ASYG DAVIDSON USED OCCASION OF HIS PRESENCE IN
GENEVA FOR ACC MEETING TO MEET SOCIALLY WITH CCD
REPRESENTATIVES JULY 27 AND SOUND OUT THEIR VIEWS ON
POSSIBLE MOVE OF CCD TO VIENNA. DAVIDSON SAID HE
SAW ASSOCIATION BETWEEN CCD AND NATURE OF OTHER TALKS
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GOING ON IN CITY (MBFR), AND OUTLINED IN GENERAL WAY

COST-SAVING FEATURES HE FELT COULD BE EFFECTED BY MOVE (INTERPRETER EXPENSES, ETC.). WHEN ASKED, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HEAD OF UN DISARMAMENT DIVISION OPPOSED MOVE OF HIS STAFF, AND WOULD PLAN INSTEAD TO ESTABLISH LIAISON OFFICE IN VIENNA. THUS MOVE OF CONFERENCE ITSELF WOULD ENTAIL LITTLE MORE THAN RELOCATION OF 3-4 MEMBER GENEVA SUPPORT STAFF PLUS SOME LIAISON PERSONNEL FROM NEW YORK.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVIDSON CCD REPRESENTATIVES CONVEYED VERY MIXED REACTIONS. ARGENTINA, E.G., VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED MOVE; CANADA STRONGLY OPPOSED IT, AT LEAST IN SHORT TERM (BUT SEEMED SLIGHTLY REASSURED WHEN DAVIDSON SAID MOVE IN ANY EVENT WOULD NOT COME BEFORE 1979). MEXICO WAS ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSED. USDELOFF PRIVATELY CONVEYED VIEWS PER REF A.

3. DAVIDSON SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED TO MISOFF HE IS STILL NOT DECIDED ABOUT HOW QUESTION OF RELOCATION SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO GA, BUT GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS LEANING NOW IN DIRECTION OF PRESENTING ASSEMBLY WITH POSSIBLE CRITERIA TO GOVERN SELECTION OF UNITS TO BE MOVED RATHER THAN SPECIFYING POSSIBLE UNITS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, IN FACT, THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO EMERGE FROM GA WITHOUT SUCH PRECISE DETERMINATIONS HAVING BEEN CONSIDERED. FROM EXAMPLES HE GAVE IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SECRETARIAT IS NOW LOOKING AT FAIRLY PERIPHERAL UN ACTIVITIES AS CANDIDATES FOR MOVE, AND IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT ABILITY TO MOVE EVEN THESE.

4. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, DAVIDSON APPEARS RESIGNED TO PROSPECT THAT DONAUPARK IS LIKELY TO BE FILLED TO LARGE EXTENT BY NEW PROGRAM PERSONNEL. HE CONFIRMED PRIVATE ESTIMATE HE HAD GIVEN TO SWISS THAT THERE WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY NET LOSS OF PERSONNEL IN GENEVA (OR FOR THAT MATTER, NEW YORK). HE FELT ECE AND UNCTAD WERE NOW, AS PRACTICAL NOTE, OUTSIDE OF CONSIDERATION FOR RELOCATION, AND AFFIRMED IT WOULD BE MISTAKE IN HIS VIEW TO MOVE JIU TO VIENNA.

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5. WHEN MISOFF REMARKED UPON TENDENCY OF AUSTRIANS TO REFER TO ESTABLISHMENT OF VIENNA AS "THIRD UN CITY," DAVIDSON EMPHASIZED HE HAS REPEATEDLY DISSUADED AUSTRIANS FROM THIS LINE AND UNDERSTOOD IT WAS MIRRORED NOW ONLY IN SOME EARLIER EXUBERANT PUBLIC RELATIONS LITERATURE NOT YET EXHAUSTED. HE FELT STRONGLY IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS TO ENTER NEXT GA ON THIS KEY. (IN SEPARATE AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION AUSTRIAN

PERMREP MARTINS ADMITTED HE RECOGNIZED PROBLEM BUT
SEEMED TO STOP SHORT OF ASSURING THAT AUSTRIA WOULD
NOT RISK IT.) ABRAMS

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